

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/827,266 Confirmation No.: 4355
Filing Date: April 5, 2001
Applicant: James G. Skakoon, et al.
Group Art Unit: 3737
Examiner: Amanda L. Lauritzen
Title: MEDICAL DEVICE INTRODUCER
Attorney Docket: 5074I-000005/US/01

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated October 16, 2009, Applicants make the following observations.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner allowing this application. With respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements that the Examiner asserts forms the basis for allowing this application too narrowly define the invention. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements relied upon by the Examiner, and other elements found in the claims, could be characterized more broadly, and in different combinations

and sub-combination and still present patentable subject matter. Further, Applicants' invention differs from the prior art of record by features other than the limitations cited by the Examiner.

If the Examiner would like to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec. 22, 2007

By:


Richard W. Warner
Reg. No. 38,043

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

15219049.1